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Summary record of the 35th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 17 November 2009, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Park In-kook ..... (Republic of Korea)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 53: Sustainable development (*continued*)

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*) (A/C.2/64/L.36)

Draft resolution on implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

(i) Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy (*continued*) (A/C.2/64/L.33)

Draft resolution on promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

1. **Ms. Osman** (Sudan) introduced draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.36 and L.33 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (*continued*) (A/C.2/64/L.37)

Draft resolution on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption

2. **Mr. Daoud** (Sudan) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.37 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 57: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*) (A/C.2/64/L.38)

Draft resolution on the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

(c) Human resources development (*continued*) (A/C.2/64/L.34)

Draft resolution on human resources development

3. **Ms. Osman** (Sudan) introduced draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.38 and L.34 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 53: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/64/L.20)

Draft resolution on oil slick on Lebanese shores

4. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.20, which had no programme budget implications. He informed the Committee that a recorded vote had been requested.

5. **Mr. Tag-Eldin** (Egypt) asked which delegation had requested the recorded vote.

6. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Israel had requested the recorded vote.

7. **Mr. Cohen** (Israel) said, in explanation of vote before the vote, that he wished to express Israel's disappointment at yet another draft resolution that was the result of politicized objectives rather than professional conduct. Part of an effort to institutionalize an anti-Israel narrative within the United Nations, the resolution failed the test of honesty and even-handedness. It cherry-picked information and omitted crucial language and context.

8. Most disturbingly, the resolution contained no reference to the context of the conflict, which was the armed attack launched by Hizbullah across an internationally recognized border. The initiators of the resolution had brought before the Committee a political issue which should be dealt with in other forums. The resolution failed to acknowledge that if the Lebanese State exercised control throughout its territory, Hizbullah would not operate as a terrorist entity that dragged the people of the region into its ill-conceived wars against Israel.

9. While the resolution was allegedly concerned with the environmental damage resulting from the 2006 war, it made no mention of the half a million trees and 52,000 dunums of forest in Israel burnt by Hizbullah rockets. Nor did it make any mention of Israel's extensive cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations working

to assess and address the environmental situation along the coast of Lebanon.

10. Such omissions were not mistakes. They offered clear examples of the true intent of the draft resolution, which was supported by an automatic majority. Sadly, such one-sided items remained detached from reality in the region and therefore failed to accurately address the real issues on the ground.

11. For those reasons, Israel had called for a vote on the issue and would vote against it.

12. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.20.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Fiji, Israel, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Colombia, Panama.

13. *The draft resolution was adopted by 154 votes to 8, with 3 abstentions.*

14. **Mr. Jaber** (Lebanon) said that the draft resolution just adopted followed up on the report of the Secretary-General on the oil slick on Lebanese shores (A/64/259) of 7 August 2009, in which the Secretary-General had expressed deep concern regarding the adverse implications of the destruction by the Israeli Air Force of oil storage tanks in the vicinity of an electric power plant. There had been a marine oil spill of 15,000 tons of fuel and contamination of 150 kilometres of Lebanese coastline, which had implications for livelihood, resources, fisheries, biodiversity and human health.

15. Israel must provide compensation for the damage. The efforts by the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund and readiness expressed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to host the fund were appreciated. His delegation urged the Secretary-General to finalize the mechanism under which it would operate. Contrary to what the Israeli representative had said, the draft resolution was not out of place, as natural resources, biodiversity and fisheries were covered by the Millennium Development Goals.

16. Judging from the history of the last 50 years, Israel had a natural tendency towards violence and aggression and required no excuse or pretext to commit violence against its neighbours. He quoted from an article published in the *Jerusalem Post*, dated 7 October 2009, which summarized Israeli's attitude as being that it was entitled to do whatever it wanted to the Palestinians because by definition it was acting in self-defence, whereas whatever they did was terrorism; there were no limits on Israel's right to self-defence, and the Palestinians had no right to defend themselves against it.

Agenda item 58: Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/64/L.6)

Draft resolution on reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

17. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.6, which had no programme budget implications.

18. *Draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.6 was adopted.*

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/C.2/64/L.2, A/C.2/64/L.35)

Draft resolution on operational activities for development of the United Nations system

19. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.35, which had been submitted by Vice-Chairman Mr. Mohamed Cherif Diallo.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.35 was adopted.*

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.2 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.